

WASHINGTON - - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today urged President Barack Obama to use remaining, returned as well as any revenue generated by bank bailout funds to pay down the budget deficit as opposed to additional spending.

Mitchell, who voted against releasing \$350 billion, the second half of the banking bailout fund, also known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), wrote President Obama today to urge him to resist using "leftover" bailout funds, which is borrowed money, on additional spending programs and return remaining, returned or revenue generated to pay down the \$1.4 trillion budget deficit.

"This money should be used to pay down the deficit," Mitchell said. "President Bush asked Congress for \$700 billion to stave off a catastrophic financial collapse that would have led to another Great Depression. The funds served their purpose and should now be returned and applied towards the deficit. I appreciate some of the bold efforts President Obama has initiated to help stabilize our economy, however I cannot support authorizing TARP funds for something else."

Mitchell has consistently fought to for better oversight, accountability and transparency of TARP funds and recently cosponsored H.R. 3020, to require that any revenue generated by TARP funds be used to pay down the national debt.

Earlier this year, Mitchell voted:

- to block the release of \$350 billion in TARP funds citing a lack of accountability, oversight and transparency as well as for the TARP Oversight and Accountability Act to require increased transparency. [House Roll Call Vote [27](#)]
- for H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009, which would force banks

to report how government funds are spent, limit bonuses for executives receiving federal assistance funds, establish benchmarks that TARP recipients must achieve to strengthen the financial system, and require beneficiaries to provide quarterly reports of how each dollar is being used. [House Roll Call Vote [26](#)]

- for H.R. 1242, to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, to direct the Treasury Department to provide continuous, and close to real-time updates on the status of funds distributed under the program through a standardized electronic database. [House Roll Call Vote [921](#)]

Below is the text of the letter from Congressman Mitchell to President Obama:

December 8, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

While I am pleased that you have called for a portion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to be used to pay down the \$1.4 trillion budget deficit, I respectfully urge you to consider devoting all remaining and returned TARP funds, as well as any revenue generated by TARP funds, to deficit reduction.

As you know, TARP was created as a bipartisan emergency effort last year to prevent a collapse of our banking and economic system. The measure was signed into law by President Bush. Without it, our country would have faced another Great Depression.

Thankfully, that immediate emergency has now passed. While we still have a long way to go to get our economy where we would like it to be, things are significantly more stable than they

were a year ago.

We borrowed money to pay for TARP. If there are any remaining funds, I believe they should be used to decrease the federal budget deficits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Mitchell

Member of Congress